



PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

April 20, 2015

Testimony to:
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Re: Raised Bill 1132: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMISSIONS TAX

Good Afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

My name is Pedro Segarra, Mayor of the City of Hartford. I am here to provide testimony in support of Raised Bill 1132: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMISSIONS TAX.

Currently, the State of Connecticut collects a 10 percent tax on the admission charge to any place of amusement, entertainment or recreation, except under certain statutory exemptions. The admissions tax as described in this bill, will allow the City of Hartford to receive the tax collected from each admissions ticket purchased at the Downtown North Baseball Stadium.

The City of Hartford could receive an estimated \$426,000 annually from these proceeds. Unlike the XL Center or Webster Arena, the City of Hartford is not asking to be exempted from the admissions tax. The request is simply to have those funds collected through the admissions tax, be redistributed back to the city. There have been several concerns regarding Raised Bill 1132. With the passage of this bill, Connecticut residents will not contribute income or personal property tax to subsidize the cost of a municipal ballpark nor will the State have a special allocation from the general fund made to Hartford. The money would be collected from the stadium's ticket sales, put into a separate state account under the control of the State Treasurer, and then paid to the City of Hartford.

Furthermore, the stadium is developed without state funding. Since municipalities in the state of Connecticut have no taxing authority, this is the only taxing mechanism available by which a Connecticut municipality can generate revenue on a municipal project. In no way is a taxpayer from any part of the state having their state tax dollars used for the ballpark. This is a user tax, meaning, only those who use the stadium by purchasing a ticket will generate revenue that would go into the Hartford minor league baseball stadium account. The governor's budget proposes 5 million dollars in cuts to the City of Hartford. Also, over 50% of our properties are tax exempt and we have never been paid our full PILOT payment from the state. The passage of Bill 1132 will help provide a necessary revenue stream back into the city.

Thank you,

Pedro E. Segarra